What is claimed is:

1. A system for synchronizing delivery of a plurality of media elements to users in a public space, the system comprising:

a replenishment interface module configured to receive media elements;

a logic controller module;

a play list module configured to provide information pertaining to available media elements to be output in the public space;

an output interface module controlling a plurality of transmitters proximate to the public space and configured to output different media elements via different ones of the plurality of transmitters in accordance with instructions from the logic controller;

a storage module configured to store local content specific to the public space and also metadata associated with, but distinct from, a specific programming media element;

wherein the logic controller module is configured to

select which received media elements to output, including a programming media element and a metadata media element associated with but distinct from the programming media element;

direct the programming media element to be transmitted via a first one of the transmitters of the output interface module directly to a programming output device in the public space during a first output period;

direct the metadata related to the programming media element to be transmitted via a second one of the transmitters of the output interface module directly to a metadata receiving device in the public space during a second output period; and

control a variable temporal relationship between the first output period and the second output period.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the replenishment interface module receives media elements via satellite communications.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the replenishment interface module receives media elements via a cable TV network.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the replenishment interface module receives media elements via the Internet.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the replenishment interface module receives media elements via physical storage media.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the output interface module is configured to convey the selected programming media element to an output device via a second signal path, and to transmit the synchronized local content via the second transmitter transmitting over a first signal path separate from the second signal path.

7. The system of Claim 1 wherein the second transmitter transmits to personal communication devices of users in the public space.

8. The system of Claim 8 wherein the second transmitter transmits wirelessly.

9. The system of Claim 1 wherein the second transmitter transmits via a local area network.

10. The system of Claim 1 wherein the second transmitter transmits via a wireless local area network.

11. The system of Claim 1 wherein the second transmitter transmits via electromagnetic waves having a frequency greater than 50 GHz.

12. The system of Claim 1 wherein the second transmitter transmits via infrared electromagnetic waves.

13. The system of Claim 1 wherein the logic controller module is configured to direct the output interface module to transmit both local content and metadata related to the programming media element via the second transmitter.

14. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a transient state variable interface module configured to obtain transient state variable data relevant to the public space, wherein the metadata and the media element are both selected for output at least partly by the transient state variable data relevant to the public space.

15. The system of Claim 1 wherein the replenishment interface module receives local content, metadata, and programming media elements via the Internet.

16. The system of Claim 1 wherein the replenishment interface module receives local content, metadata, and programming media elements via wireless broadcast.

17. The system of Claim 1 wherein the replenishment interface module receives local content, metadata, and programming media elements via wired broadcast.

18. The system of Claim 17 wherein the replenishment interface module receives local content, metadata, and programming media elements via cable TV network.

19. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a local input module proximate to the public space and configured to accept local content inputs.

20. The system of Claim 16 wherein the replenishment interface module receives local content, metadata, and programming media elements from both local and remote sources.

21. The system of Claim 16 wherein the transient state variable data relevant to the public space, which partly determines the selected media element, includes data associated with local weather conditions.

22. The system of Claim 16 wherein the transient state variable data relevant to the public space, which partly determines the selected media element, includes data reflecting user activity in the public space.

23. The system of Claim 16 wherein the transient state variable data relevant to the public space, which partly determines the selected media element, includes data provided by a system processing sales or inventory data.

24. A method of synchronizing delivery in a public space of programming media elements and related metadata, the method comprising:
receiving a programming media element;
conveying the programming media element substantially throughout a programming conveyance time period to a first output device in the public space via a first signal path;
obtaining metadata related to and distinct from the programming media element;
providing the metadata to a second device in the public space via a different second signal path during a data provisioning time period variably and controllably related to the programming conveyance time period.

25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising obtaining local content related to the public space, and providing the local content to the second device.

26. The method of Claim 24, further comprising providing the local content along with the metadata during the data provisioning time period.

27. The method of Claim 24, wherein the data provisioning period begins before the programming conveyance time period begins.

28. The method of Claim 24, wherein the data provisioning period persists after the programming conveyance time period ends.

29. The method of Claim 24, wherein the second device is a bidirectional communication device controlled by a user who does not control the first output device.

30. A method of synchronizing delivery in a public space of programming media elements and related metadata, the method comprising:

receiving a programming media element;

conveying the programming media element substantially throughout a programming media element conveyance time period to a first output device in the public space via a first signal path;

obtaining local content related to the public space;

providing media elements including the local content to a second device in the public space during a data provisioning time period related to the media conveyance time period.

31. The method of Claim 30, wherein the first output device is a passive output device.

32. The method of Claim 30, further comprising:

obtaining metadata related to the programming media element; and

providing the metadata to the second device during the data provisioning time period.

33. The method of Claim 30, wherein the second device is a personal bidirectional data communications device.

34. The method of Claim 30, wherein the data is provided to the second device by a wireless communication device.

35. The method of Claim 30, wherein the data provided to the second device is provided by wireless communication to a restricted area substantially limited to within 500 meters of the public space.

36. The method of Claim 30, wherein the data provided to the second device is substantially provided only within the public space.

37. The method of Claim 30, further comprising:

receiving a response reflecting modification by a user of the provided data.

38. A method of synchronizing delivery in a public space of media elements and related data, the method comprising:

receiving a programming media element;

conveying the programming media element substantially throughout a programming conveyance time period to a first output device in the public space via a first signal path;

obtaining a metadata media element related to the programming media element;

obtaining local content related to the public space;

providing the metadata and local content in the public space during a data provisioning time period related to the programming conveyance time period.

39. The method of Claim 38, wherein the metadata and local content are provided by a second signal path different from the first signal path.

40. The method of Claim 38, wherein the first output device is a passive output device.

41. The method of Claim 38, wherein the metadata and local content are provided to an interactive device.

42. The method of Claim 41 further including receiving data supplied by the user from the interactive device.

43. The method of Claim 38, wherein providing the metadata and local content is accomplished by broadcasting via a local wireless transmitter.

44. The method of Claim 38, wherein providing the metadata and local content is accomplished via a local area network.

45. The method of Claim 38, wherein the metadata and local content is substantially provided only within the public space.

46. The method of Claim 38, further comprising:

receiving a response reflecting modification by a user of the provided data.

47. The method of Claim 38, wherein the media elements and the meta data and local content are transmitted or broadcast to the system via the Internet.

48. The method of Claim 38, wherein the media elements and the meta data and local content are transmitted or broadcast to the system via wireless broadcast.

49. The method of Claim 38, further comprising:

receiving, independent of user inputs, transient state variable data especially relevant to the public space; and

determining which programming media elements and metadata and local content are provided in the public space at least partly on the basis of the transient variable data.

50. The method of Claim 49, wherein the transient state variable data includes data reflecting local environmental conditions.

51. The method of Claim 49, wherein the transient state variable data includes data related to user actions in the public space.

52. The method of Claim 49, wherein the transient state variable data includes data provided by data services.

53. The method of Claim 49, wherein the transient state variable data includes data provided by a system processing sales and inventory data for the public space.

54. The method of Claim 53, further comprising modifying a media element at least partly in response to the transient state variable data.